REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated January 5, 2009, the Examiner states that Claims 3-8, 16-30, 32 and 34 are pending, Claims 3-8, 16, 17, 29, 30, 32 and 34 are rejected and Claims 18-28 are withdrawn. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 3-8, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takako (JP 2002-237382). Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takako in view of Vleggaar et al. (U.S. 6,160,346). Claims 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takako in view of Hosohawa (U.S. 2001/0011783). The Applicant has amended the claims, and considers that these amendments overcome the rejections.

The claims have been amended only to incorporate the features of Claim 4 into independent Claim 3. As such, no new matter is being presented in the claims that would require the further search/consideration by the Examiner, and thus a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is not necessary.

The invention recited in the amended Claim 3 (present invention) recites an organic functional element comprising at least a plurality of electrodes and an organic material layer, wherein at least one of the electrodes is composed of a metal having a melting point of 70°C or higher to 160°C or lower, and wherein the metal constituting the electrode is an alloy of Bi and at least one kind of other metals.

A main characteristic of the present invention is that "at least one of the electrodes is composed of a metal having a melting point of 70°C or higher to 160°C or lower, and the metal constituting the electrode is an alloy of Bi and at least one kind of other metals (feature 1)".

Disclosure in page 13, lines 2-11 of the specification for the present invention teaches that use of the alloy based on Bi as the electrode improves injection of electrons form the cathode to the EL layer, and allows the present invention to attain an advantageous effect of having a work function near to that of Al which is used for a general cathode. Further, in the Examples 1 to 10 and the Comparative Example 1 of the specification proved that the respective EL element which comprises a cathode made of an alloy of Bi showed emission element characteristics equivalent

to those of the EL element which comprise a cathode formed by vapor depositing Al.

On the other hand, although JP 2002-237382 (Takako) teaches alloy containing Bi, any alloys described therein have a melting point over 160°C (page 7, liens 8-12, specification of the present application). Thus, Takako is completely silent regarding the feature 1.

The present invention attains the above-mentioned advantageous effect by having the feature 1.

Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated by Takako, and also is not considered obvious in further view of the other cited references.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney for Applicant
Brian W. Hameder
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300
Reg. No. 45613